

Grasse Ilrs Workshop
25-28 September 2007-09-22

Welcome adress
Francis Pierron – OCA Grasse France

Dear representatives of authorities and agencies
Dear colleagues of the program committee and local organising committee
Ladies and gentlemen
Dear friends

It's the first time that I have the chance and the honour to welcome you for an ILRS Workshop and let me say that I'm really impressed but in the same time it's a great pleasure to welcome here so many colleagues and friends from everywhere in the world..

First of all, I would like to thanks Grasse City authorities and Mr Leleux, the Mayor for immediate support and funding our Workshop project when we met six months ago.

I would of course associate to these thanks the Scientific council of our Observatory and his director Jacques Colin who attributed to the laboratory substantial financial support for this event.

Thanks to our laboratory director Pierre Exertier which delegated appreciable autonomy and really facilitated all administrative tasks.

Thank of course to Werner Gurtner, the chairman of the ILRS Governing Board and to Mike Pearlman, the director of the ILRS Central Bureau for their permanent support, advices and reactivity.

Thanks at last a thousand times to the local organising committee and each colleague implied in effective preparation...

As you will see, Grasse is a really nice and pleasant City in an area of Provence full of history and culture. The Grasse perfume tradition really began in the seventeenth century after a long tannery history and "Master Glove Perfumer" title created by the king in sixteen fourteen (1614). You can of course take some time during these days to visit Perfumeries (Fragonard which is a few minutes walking from here, Molinard little bit further away)and other interesting things in the old town of Grasse city..

Beside local industry which is becoming more and more technologic with new chemistry research and developments, a scientific centre in Grasse associated with a middle altitude observatory has been created on the impulsion of Jean Kovalevsky and F. Barlier about 35 years ago, it has been growing along the years and is gathered today with Nice site to form the "Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur" and some difficulties today are appearing in the sky..

F.Barlier today present with us will certainly take the opportunity to look back right to the very beginning of this story.

In this context, the Space Geodesy Grasse OCA group with about twenty five Researchers, Astronomers and Engineers has been implied from the first beginning in space geodesy sciences and data analysis as well as technology and operations with a very efficient participation to the tracking network SLR and really significant amount of LLR data.

Let me introduce now the program which has been built for several months in a great and efficient cooperation work with the Program committee and the Chairs ; Thanks a lot to all of you for this engagement (implication).

The large number of presentations to the agenda really reflects the challenges for future and the dynamism of our community.

We tried to keep spirit of these meetings with reasonable balance between data analysis and technology which are mutually linked and are very complementary sciences.

Anyway, this has to be a Workshop, and we recommend to the chairs to strongly encourage the speakers to give talks concise, in such a way to keep time for discussions and exchanges in the assembly.

About speakers and their talk time, we'll ask to chairs to organize it and to strictly respect the schedule of the sessions for logistics purposes and evident respect for following colleagues.

At last, thanks to the speakers for inserting and testing their presentation in the conference PC prior to their session with Chairs and sufficiently in advance..

We'll collect later all the presentations to put them quickly on the web.

On our request, you'll send us within two months your contribution for editing proceedings on paper or Cdrom.

-We prepared for each of you an Slr dedicated fragrant bag with lavender and inside some typical things from Provence like perfume, Rose and Jasmine flower jam, tourist information and discount voucher for perfumes.. You will of course also find an abstract book with quite all the contributions of the eleven Sessions.

Let me say now a few words about organisational items and events during these four days :

- First, this evening at six pm, we'll have the Mayor welcome in a very nice place of Grasse with reception rooms and museum housed on first floor. Charming and intimate, this eighteenth century Villa Museum presents the many facets of the famous painter Fragonard to amateurs through paintings, drawings, and engravings.
- Secondly, we have organised in this meeting place two lunch included in registration fees on Tuesday (today) and Thursday, Wednesday lunch and evening will be available for some small restaurants or perfumery visit..
- Thirdly, on Wednesday afternoon, a Grasse visit has been scheduled for a maximum of fifteen persons ; it is dedicated for accompanying peoples but some delegates too tired with sessions can participate; please indicate us if your are interested..
- And finally the banquet will be on Thursday evening and we'll finished this workshop in the Grasse backcountry at the Observatory with a bus return to Grasse Friday noon.

I wish you all a fruitful and successful workshop.

Please enjoy Grasse City and various activities prepared for the evenings.

I know that some of you even take the opportunity to append a few days to the workshop to see more of Provence, France or Europe.. Enjoy it...

Thank you very much..